



JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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August 22, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JEF*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its monitoring activities, including findings and actions taken to address water quality issues. Attached is the third report, covering the period of April 1 to June 30, 2012. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the County, and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

If you should have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:jm
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for
Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County**

April 1 to June 30, 2012

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Division
August 2012

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the County of Los Angeles to determine the presence of arsenic, total chromium, hexavalent chromium (chromium+6), and lead as a follow up study to the study published on February 14, 2001.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. A small water system is defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a system that has less than 200 service connections. The DWP currently inspects 180 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies. The water system operators are required to report monitoring results to the DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to properly report sampling data constitutes a violation enforceable by the DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards, or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: 1) notify consumers immediately, and 2) take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DWP works with the CDPH to enforce State Law and to assist the water system in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the water system is placed under increased surveillance while public notices continue to be posted. The DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of treatment systems and utilizing new water sources. Additionally, the DWP has continued to seek financial assistance from the State.

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period April 01 to June 30, 2012.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State Law. During the reporting period, the DWP issued Notices of Violation and Order to seventeen (17) water systems for lapses in bacteriological sampling.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in violation of the State requirement to perform bacteriological analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900768	AGUA DULCE GENERAL STORE	AGUA DULCE
1900761	ANGELES SHOOTING RANGES	SAN FERNANDO
1900831	DECKER CANYON YOUTH CAMP	MALIBU
1900099	FORESTER HAVEN CALIFORNIA	SAN FERNANDO
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE	AGUA DULCE
1900977	387' TOWER AMSL 6176 (~KCAL)	MOUNT WILSON
1900226	899' TOWER AMSL 6631 (~KCBS)	MOUNT WILSON
1900820	LANG RANCH SHOPPING CENTER	VASQUEZ ROCKS
1900944	MILE HIGH WATER ASSOCIATION	VALYERMO
1900699	MILLARD CANYON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	ALTADENA
1900864	NEWCOMB'S RANCH INN	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900537	OAK GROVE TRAILER PARK	AGUA DULCE
1907029	RANCHO SIERRA ACRES	LANCASTER
1900868	RIVERS END TRAILER PARK	CANYON COUNTRY
1900057	ST. ANDREWS ABBEY	VALYERMO
1900591	STURTEVANT CAMP UNITED METHODIST	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900207	TRAIL CANYON EQUESTRIAN	TUJUNGA

The DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard. During the reporting period, the DWP issued five (5) Notices of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for bacteriological levels.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900649	GOLDEN SANDS MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900815	PIUTE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	LANCASTER
1900220	USFS-ANGELES CREST RANGER STATION	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900554	USFS-LITTLE JIMMY STATION	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900576	USFS-MONTE CRISTO CAMP	PALMDALE

All five water systems listed tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Further laboratory analyses confirmed that *E. coli* was absent from their water test results. Both coliform bacteria and *E. coli* have been absent in subsequent testing of these small water systems.

CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen (13) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the Standard (10 parts per billion).

Table 3: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has installed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with a California Licensed Water Filtration Contractor.

B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at two (2) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the Standard (45 parts per million). These small water systems are also required to continue notification of their customers.

Table 4: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

SUMMARY

Seventeen small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. Five small water systems were cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at thirteen small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances and at two small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the July to September quarter will be completed by late October 2012. The DWP will provide the report for that quarter on November 15, 2012.

For questions or for further information, please contact Richard Lavin, Chief of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.